

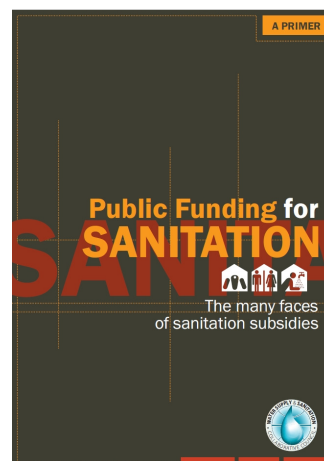
Press release

WSSCC Publishes Primer on "Public Funding for Sanitation" *Latest thinking and knowledge on sanitation financing presented*

14 August 2009, Geneva – In advance of the annual World Water Week in Stockholm, the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) today released a new primer entitled **Public Funding for Sanitation: The Many Faces of Sanitation Subsidies**, a new resource for all those who work in sanitation and who seek sustainable and effective strategies for delivering sanitation to those with the biggest need. The primer is available at www.wsscc.org.

Sanitation has a proven, positive impact on people's health, dignity, local environment and economic situation. However, 2.5 billion people still lack access to improved sanitation. Given that most of these people are extremely poor, public subsidies for infrastructure such as toilets are often proposed as a policy response to help improve access. However, other commentators and experts suggest that public subsidies fail to significantly increase access and may indeed stifle service provision in sanitation.

Access to safe sanitation would, for some 2.5 billion fellow citizens without it, improve their health, dignity, local environment and economic well-being. While most people would agree that the poor and vulnerable should be supported to obtain sanitation services in ways that promote social equity, are people-centered, participatory and affordable, the debate on how to do it often becomes contentious. Some people propose infrastructure-based hardware subsidies; others oppose them. As Public Funding for Sanitation explains, the discussion on appropriate sanitation financing mechanisms for the poor goes far beyond the use of hardware subsidies. It must take into account aspects of hardware and software, capital and operational expenditure, the type of sanitation system being built, and, ultimately, the users of the sanitation system. This primer assists the reader in understanding the global debate on subsidies and sanitation financing, and provides guidance on how to select the most appropriate funding arrangements for sanitation programming in different situations.



(more)

WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL



CONSEIL DE CONCERTATION POUR L'APPROVISIONNEMENT EN EAU ET L'ASSAINISSEMENT
CONSEJO DE COLABORACION PARA EL ABASTECIMIENTO DE AGUA Y SANEAMIENTO

The 44-page primer has five parts. Part 1 is an overall introduction to public financing and subsidies and discusses what needs to be financed and how. Part 2 examines the debates around sanitation subsidies, summarizes the main arguments 'for' and 'against' them, and lays out general principles which can promote good financial design of sanitation programs. Part 3 touches on financing for software activities and then goes on to describe the ten types of hardware subsidies that are commonly used in sanitation and briefly examines the advantages and disadvantages of each.

In Part 4, generic sanitation systems are presented and the options for financing both their capital and operational costs are explored. Finally, in Part 5, the options and arguments are summarized and the document concludes with some general principles on making financing for sanitation effective.

"The need for more and better sanitation is clear; the need for more and better funding follows," said Carolien van der Voorden, WSSCC's Networking and Knowledge management Officer. "We hope that this primer is a valuable tool towards meeting the challenges ahead."

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About WSSCC

The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) is a global multi-stakeholder partnership organization that works to improve the lives of poor people. WSSCC enhances collaboration among sector agencies and professionals around sanitation and water supply and contributes to the broader goals of poverty eradication, health and environmental improvement, gender equality and long-term social and economic development. The activities undertaken by WSSCC were recognized in the United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/45/181 of 21 December 1990. WSSCC has National WASH Coalitions in 36 countries and individual members in over 140 countries.

www.wsscc.org

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